

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL

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AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 8485

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GA, IV, LY, SA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT JAWARA'S TRAVELS TO THE IVORY COAST

REF: BANJUL 0610

1. GAMBIAN PRESIDENT JAWARA DEPARTED IVORY COAST OCTOBER 21 FOR BANJUL ABOARD PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET'S PERSONAL GULFSTREAM II. THE FOUR-DAY TRIP WAS LARGELY CEREMONIAL; PRESIDENT JAWARA WAS AWARDED THE "GRAND CORDON DE L'ORDRE NATIONAL" ON SUNDAY BY PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET. MEDIA COVERAGE STRESSED THE LONG FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND PRESIDENT JAWARA'S VIEWS OF HOUPHOUET AS THE OLDER BROTHER AND LEADER AMONG AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE.

2. PRESIDENT JAWARA SPENT MOST OF THE VISIT AT HOUPHOUET'S PLANTATION IN YAMOOUSSOUKRO WHERE JAWARA STATED HIS FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF IVOIRIEN AGRICULTURAL ACUMEN. (MOST OFFICIALS OF THE I GRIEN GOVERNMENT WERE ALSO PRESENT IN YAMOOUSSOUKRO TO PARTICIPATE, ALONG WITH JAWARA, IN PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET'S 69TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, AND A DAY OF PRAYER AND MEDITATION.) A DETAILED COMMUNIQUE WAS NOT RELEASED, RATHER WRAP-UP REPORTING CONSISTED OF TEXTS OF PRESIDENTS' SPEECHES IN WHICH THEY PRAISED EACH OTHER AS LEADERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES.

SMITH

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